



STATE COUNCIL OF CIVIL DEFENSE
MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

May 14, 1954

INFORMATION CIRCULAR NO. 50

PUBLIC RELEASE DATE: WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 1954

STATEWIDE CIVIL DEFENSE TEST - JUNE 14, 1954

PART I - GENERAL INFORMATION

1. An international civil defense test, called "Operation Alert", will be held on June 14, 1954. The United States, Canada, Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico will participate.

2. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will participate in the June 14 test under authority provided in Section 4 of the State Council of Civil Defense Act of 1951, P.L. 28. The primary purposes of the statewide exercise will be:

- (a) To test the over-all effectiveness of State and local attack warning systems and devices;
- (b) To test public reaction to "surprise" sounding of attack warning signals; and
- (c) To test basic civil defense communications facilities.

A secondary, highly important purpose of the June 14 test will be further to stimulate public interest in civil defense.

3. Pennsylvania, together with the States of Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia, is in the Federal Civil Defense Administration's so-called Region 2. On the other hand, New Jersey and New York, together with all the New England States, are in Region 1, as defined by the Administration. In order effectively to coordinate Pennsylvania test activities with those in all bordering states, some in Region 1 and others in Region 2, it has been deemed advisable to divide activities within this Commonwealth into two principal phases, namely, "public participation" and "test operations". Essential information concerning each of these phases is presented below.

PART II - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PHASE

4. The public participation phase of the June 14 test will be built around "surprise" sounding of standard attack warning signals. In response thereto, the public will be expected to bring all non-essential activities to a halt and carry out prescribed self-protection measures.

5. While every effort should be made to publicize widely the fact that all the public will be expected to participate in the June 14 test, INFORMATION CONCERNING THE EXACT TIMES AT WHICH THE "RED" AND "WHITE" SIGNALS WILL BE SOUNDED MUST NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES BE RELEASED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC. All publicity regarding time of the test shall be limited to statements to the general effect that "the test will take place between 9:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M., Eastern Daylight Saving Time".

6. County and Local Civil Defense Directors, actively assisted by county, city, borough, town and township officials, will be responsible for conduction of the test in accordance with the general plan and provisions set forth in the following paragraphs.

7. On Monday, June 14, between 0900 and 1400 hours (9:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M.), E.D.T., three (3) standard warning signals will be transmitted over the bell-and-lights system on a statewide basis. In the order sent, these test signals will be:

- (a) Simulated "Yellow" - Air Force code name "Lemon Juice";
- (b) Simulated "Red" - Air Force code name "Apple Jack"; and
- (c) Simulated "White" - Air Force code name "Snow Man".

Local civil defense officials will be responsible for telephone and other "fan out" of the test signals from the signal receiving stations (i.e. the small, black bell-and-lights boxes) to other points in the various communities.

8. Upon receipt of the simulated "Yellow" warning, county and local civil defense officials will be expected:

- (a) To activate county and local control centers at least on a "limited telephone" basis; and
- (b) To begin mobilization of those county and local civil defense forces which will be active in the test.

County and Local Directors will have to base their estimated requirements for (a) and (b), above, on anticipated conditions within their respective territories. If for any reason it is impossible to have an actual control center in operation on June 14, it is requested that the Director concerned make some temporary arrangement whereby telephone messages of the types enumerated below may be sent and received.

9. Just as soon as control centers are manned, simple "notice of activation messages" of the following general types will be transmitted:

- (a) From local to county control centers, messages reading substantially as follows: "Elizabethtown Control to Lancaster County Control. 6/14/0936. Elizabethtown Control Center activated on telephone basis at 0933. Incoming calls will be received on Elizabethtown 5-700".
- (b) From county to state control centers, messages reading substantially as follows: "Mifflin County Control to Harrisburg Control. 6/14/0935. Mifflin County Control Center activated on telephone basis at 0934. Incoming calls will be received on Lewistown 4-800".

The sample messages given in (a) and (b), above, approximate the actual message "texts" to be read in full by the sender, once the basic connection has been established. The series of figures near the beginning of each message is the so-called "time and date group" identifying that particular message. The figure "6" represents the month (June); the figure "14" represents the day of the month (the 14th); and the figure "0936" (or "0935" in the second message) is the time the message was approved for transmission by the Director concerned. This last figure will always be expressed on the "24-hour clock basis", where 9:30 A.M. becomes "0930", where 2:00 P.M. becomes "1400", where 10:30 P.M. becomes "2230", etc.

10. County Civil Defense Directors will have to inform Local Directors within their respective counties of the telephone number, or numbers, to be used in sending telephone messages from local to county control centers.

The Directors concerned will have to reach agreement as to local payment for all charges on such calls. Messages from county to state control centers will be transmitted as follows:

- (a) Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Lehigh, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Pike and Wayne Counties will send telephone messages to the Eastern Area Control Center at Ogontz, Montgomery County, using the number "Turner 0303".* Such calls may be made "charges collect" and so will be paid for by the State Council of Civil Defense.
- (b) Adams, Bedford, Blair, Bradford, Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lackawanna, Lebanon, Luzerne, Lycoming, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Perry, Potter, Schuylkill, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, Wyoming and York Counties will send telephone messages to the Control Center at Harrisburg, using the number "Harrisburg 8-2581". Such calls may be made "charges collect" and so will be paid for by the State Council of Civil Defense.
- (c) Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Cambria, Clarion, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Fayette, Forest, Greene, Indiana, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Somerset, Venango, Warren, Washington and Westmoreland Counties will send telephone messages to the Western Area Control Center at Butler, using the number "Butler 4771". Such calls may be made "charges collect" and so will be paid for by the State Council of Civil Defense.

The State Control Centers at Ogontz, Harrisburg and Butler each are equipped with a number of telephones on "trunk hunter" systems, so by calling the listed numbers a "free" 'phone automatically will be obtained promptly in most

*Occasionally long distance operators may report that "there is no Turner exchange listed". In such cases, explain that Turner is a "Suburban Philadelphia" exchange linked with "Ogontz" and ask her to call again.

instances. Should the long distance operator report the line "busy", explain that the number called is on a "trunk hunting" system and request that she try it again in two or three minutes, rather than waiting 15 or 20 minutes as for ordinary calls.

11. The State Council of Civil Defense will keep accurate record of the time required for all county control centers to "report in" as indicated by receipt of the "notice of activation messages" described above. County Directors, in turn, are requested to keep a similar record of the time required for local control centers within their respective counties to "report in". In all instances, the objective, of course, is to complete transmission of the "activation messages" as soon as possible after receipt of the simulated "Yellow" warning. All reasonable efforts should be made to complete transmission of the "activation messages", even though it may be impossible to complete the call until after the simulated "Red" signal has been received. In the event that it is impossible to complete an "activation report" prior to receipt of the simulated "White", the "activation message" may be combined with the "summary activity report messages" discussed below.

12. The civil defense forces to be mobilized upon receipt of the simulated "Yellow" warning are those which County and Local Directors deem necessary to carry out the public participation activities described below. In general, it is recommended that, in addition to regular policemen, all available auxiliary police and wardens be called out to help in traffic control and related activities. All individuals engaged in such duties should wear a uniform, an armband or some other recognized "badge of authority".

13. Immediately upon receipt of the simulated "Red" signal on the bell-and-lights system, or by telephone relay therefrom, a standard "Red" warning signal publicly shall be sounded on local sirens, horns or whistles. This signal is, of course, composed of a three-minute "warbling" of sirens or a three-minute series of short blasts on horns and whistles, or a combination of the two.

14. Immediately upon public sounding of the simulated "Red" warning on sirens, horns or whistles, every effort shall be made promptly to bring all but true emergency traffic to a halt and to have the public take cover.

15. With the exceptions enumerated below, traffic control and self-protection activities shall be carried out in general accordance with provisions set forth in Paragraph 3, Sub-sections (1) through (jj), pages 3, 4, 5 and 6, of Information Circular No. 43, dated September 8, 1953 and covering the October 6, 1953 statewide test. Approved exceptions are as follows:

- (a) The beginning and end of "Condition Red" will be as signaled by the bell-and-lights system, rather than at 7:02 and 7:10 P.M., respectively, as on October 6, 1953.
- (b) Instructions relative to automobile and other lights may be disregarded, as the June test will be held during daylight, rather than after dark.
- (c) Advice to travelers planning to board trains, planes, busses, ships and the like should cover the period 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M., E.D.T., rather than 7:00 to 7:15 P.M.

In addition, due publicity should be given the fact that farmers in their fields, fishermen along streams and other individuals in the open and well away from buildings will not be expected to "take cover" during "Condition Red".

16. As related to traffic control and self-protection activities, all County and Local Civil Defense Directors are cautioned to determine, well in advance of June 14, whether or not any parades in their communities are scheduled for the morning of June 14 in celebration of Flag Day. If so, two courses of action are open, namely:

- (a) To arrange with local parade officials to delay start of the parade until after the "White" signal has sounded; or

- (b) To arrange with local parade officials to have all parade participants "fall out and take cover" when the "Red" warning is publicly sounded on sirens, horns or whistles, and "reform and continue the march" following the "White" signal.

The value inherent in the second alternative is twofold. First, such action would be an ideal and most unusual way to focus full community attention on civil defense. Secondly, it would provide practical experience in coping with unusual situations which might actually be faced under attack conditions.

17. Immediately upon receipt of the simulated "White" signal on the bell-and-lights system, or by relay therefrom, a standard "White" signal publicly will be sounded on sirens, horns or whistles. This signal, of course, shall consist of a one-minute steady blast on sirens, horns or whistles; then two minutes of silence; then a second one-minute steady blast of the alarms; then another two minutes of silence; and, finally, a third one-minute blast of the alarms -- in all, a seven-minute signal, including three one-minute periods of sound and two two-minute periods of silence. Public sounding of the simulated "White" on sirens, horns or whistles will be the signal for traffic to resume movement and the public to resume normal pursuits.

18. Just as soon after public sounding of the simulated "White" signal as the necessary information can be obtained from official observers previously stationed at key points in the various communities, County and Local Civil Defense Directors will arrange for transmission of "summary activity report messages" of the following general types:

- (a) From local to county control centers, messages similar to the following: "Elizabethtown Control to Lancaster County Control. 6/14/1028. 'Red' signal promptly sounded, but sirens inaudible in southwestern portion of Borough. Traffic control excellent, but some people lingered too long on streets".

(b) From county to state control centers, messages similar to the following: "Mifflin County Control to Harrisburg Control.

6/14/1033. All sirens promptly sounded with good coverage in most communities. Traffic control and public response in city and boroughs excellent, but traffic continued to move in rural areas due to failure to hear 'Red' warning. Countywide test rated very good".

In general, "summary reports" from Local Directors should cover local results in some detail. Similar reports for the county should be aimed at a general summarization based on reports from three or more representative communities within the county. The latter need not contain the specific details received from local communities.

19. County Directors are requested to make every effort to transmit "summary activity reports" as soon after sounding of the simulated "White" as a representative summary can be obtained. It is not necessary that they be held until reports from all communities within the county are received. The State Council of Civil Defense will keep an accurate record of the time required to obtain the "summary reports" from all counties, while County Directors will be expected to obtain the same type of information relating to receipt of reports from local organizations.

20. Generally related to the messages received, Ogontz, Harrisburg and Butler will send one, or more, messages to all county control centers. It is strongly recommended that county control centers, in turn, send one, or more, messages to all local control centers within their respective counties. For this reason, it is highly important that all "notice of activation messages" (Paragraph 9, above) contain information as to the telephone numbers to be used for incoming calls.

21. Briefly outlined, the general procedure followed in the transmission of telephone messages sent from one control center to another is as follows:

- (a) After approval by the Director, the complete, written message exactly as it is to be sent is given to a telephonist in the sending control center.
 - (b) The sending telephonist places a call for the receiving control center, using the number previously provided.
 - (c) A telephonist in the receiving center answers the ring simply by giving the name of the receiving center. For example, Ogontz will answer with the words "Ogontz Control". Similarly, Somerset County will answer with "Somerset County Control".
 - (d) Upon receipt of the receiver's initial answer, the sending telephonist gives the message "address". For example, "Elizabethtown Control to Lancaster County Control", or "Mifflin County Control to Harrisburg Control".
 - (e) In response to (d), immediately above, the receiving telephonist comes back with the "go ahead", for example, "Go ahead Elizabethtown Control", or "Go ahead Mifflin County Control".
 - (f) Upon receipt of the "go ahead", the sending telephonist reads in full the message to be sent, beginning with the names of the sending and receiving centers, as illustrated in Paragraph 9, Sub-sections (a) and (b), above. At the end of the message, the sending telephonist adds "That is all", or "End of message".
 - (g) The receiving telephonist either acknowledges receipt of the message with "Message received O.K.", or, if necessary, asks that all, or a part, of the message be repeated for clarification. When clarification is obtained, the receiving telephonist says "Message now received O.K." and then hangs up.
- This completes the transmission.

As indicated above, all messages will be sent by telephonists, or other communications personnel, rather than by Directors themselves. In sending messages, all telephonists must be sure to speak slowly and distinctly as the receiving telephonist must write down all that is said. The "time and

date group" contained in each message, for example, 6/14/0934, is "read off" in the following manner: "six, slant, fourteen, slant, zero nine three four". There is no need for telephonists to identify themselves by name, as the "lead" of each message, for example, "Elizabethtown Control to Lancaster County Control", identifies both the sending and receiving centers.

22. In summary, the public participation phase of the June 14 activities will include a test of the bell-and-lights warning system, community warning devices, basic communications facilities and public reaction to "surprise" sounding of standard attack warning signals.

PART III - TEST OPERATIONS PHASE

23. In addition to activities associated with the public participation phase of the June 14 test, all county and local civil defense organizations strongly are urged to carry out other programs designed both to display and test the ability of local units to cope with emergency situations. Inter-county exercises which will show how various communities will lend help to others should be especially encouraged.

24. Test operations of the type suggested in Paragraph 24, immediately above, may be carried out in conjunction with the public participation activities described in Part II, Paragraphs 4 through 24, above. They also may be held later in the day, or in the evening hours, when larger numbers of volunteers are likely to be free to participate.

25. For inter-county, county and local test operations scheduled to be held between 2:00 and 9:00 P.M., E.D.T., on June 14, permission to use sirens, horns and whistles for public sounding of standard "Red" and "White" signals hereby is granted, provided due notice of the proposed soundings properly is disseminated among people residing in all communities directly concerned. However, the bell-and-lights system will not be available for use in the transmission of signals associated with such tests.

26. The State Council of Civil Defense will order no inter-community, or inter-county, movement of personnel or equipment in connection with the June 14 test. County and local civil defense organizations, how-

ever, may arrange for such movements on a volunteer basis, provided the said movements are a part of planned test operations previously approved by the County Directors concerned.

27. Wherever civil defense equipment is moved over highways, streets or other public thoroughfares in test operations, every care must be taken to guard against highway accidents. All vehicles must proceed well within established speed limits. All motor convoys should be provided with ample regular and/or auxiliary police escorts and their speed must be carefully regulated (Remember this: If the first vehicle in a long convoy travels at 40 m.p.h., the last one frequently has to move 65 to 70 m.p.h. to keep its place). Insofar as possible, it is strongly recommended that all movement of personnel and equipment be confined to daylight hours.

28. In planning both for statewide and local activities, County and Local Civil Defense Directors should anticipate and provide for local "problems". These include traffic control on bridges, at state boundaries and at similar points; the handling of people congregated in ball parks and amusement places; the movement of fire engines, ambulances and similar vehicles on true emergency calls; etc.

PART IV - RELATED INFORMATION

29. National publicity related to "Operation Alert" in most instances has stated that the test will take place on June 14 and 15. With the exception of a few county and local test operations scheduled for June 15, practically all Pennsylvania activities will, however, be concluded prior to dark on the evening of June 14.

30. In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 7, Sub-section (a)v, of the Rules and Regulations Governing Issuance, Display, Use, Surrender and Return of Civil Defense Motor Vehicle Identification Plates, the official plates publicly may be displayed on motor vehicles during the the period between noon, daylight time, on Sunday, June 13 and noon, day-

light time, on Tuesday, June 15. (Any county or local civil defense organizations scheduling test operations for the afternoon, or evening, of June 15, should make written request for extended display of the plates to the State Director of Civil Defense, if desired.)

31. The success of the June 14 test will be dependent in large measure upon two factors, namely, the advance planning carried out by county and local civil defense and government officials, and advance publicity giving details of the test as it will be carried out in each local community.

32. To assure the development of effective plans for carrying out the public participation phase of the test, County and Local Civil Defense Directors and members of their staffs should confer and work closely with those representatives of local government directly concerned, particularly local police officials.

33. As in all previous tests, the Pennsylvania State Police, acting under orders from Commissioner C. M. Wilhelm, will extend to all civil defense, county and local officials full cooperation in matters relating to highway traffic control and general police activities. However, primary responsibility for the development and implementation of plans for traffic control and for other police functions properly rests with county and local officials.

34. To help County and Local Civil Defense Directors with activities designed both to stimulate public participation in the June 14 test and to inform all citizens of their individual test responsibilities, the State Council of Civil Defense is sending to all County Directors a package of materials specially prepared for local use. These items include, among others, a suggested letter to be addressed to local industrial plants and similar organizations, a suggested letter for all local members of the clergy, and suggested press, radio and television releases. The Council will provide similar information for statewide use, but in large measure, the success of the "promotional" program will depend upon local publicity playing up local activities.

35. In all local publicity regarding the June 14 test, essential facts concerning the "Yellow" warning repeatedly should be stressed. Briefly, these facts are:


- (a) As in the case of real "Yellow" signals, the simulated "Yellow" sent out on June 14 will be widely disseminated by telephone, radio and various other means excluding public sounding of sirens, horns or whistles.
- (b) The "Yellow" warning is basically a mobilization signal for civil defense, fire, police, and other emergency forces. It also is used by industrial plants, hospitals and similar organizations as a guide governing emergency operational procedures.
- (c) Broadly speaking, THE "YELLOW" WARNING DOES NOT CALL FOR GENERAL ACTION ON THE PART OF THE PUBLIC AT LARGE. It is not the signal to "take cover". It definitely does not mean "take to the hills".

The main point to be driven home, of course, is that set forth in (c), immediately above (for further details see Information Circular No. 47, date January 26, 1954).

36. Conelrad, the emergency radio broadcast system designed to make it impossible for enemy planes to use radio beams as navigational aids, will not be in effect during the June 14 test. The State Council of Civil Defense, however, will provide all Pennsylvania radio and television stations with pertinent spot announcements related to Conelrad for use following actual receipt of the simulated "Yellow", "Red" and "White" warning signals.

37. In order to make the communications phase of the June 14 test as realistic as possible, the words "test message" need not be included in messages transmitted by telephone. However, in the case of radio messages, which conceivably may be "picked up" many miles away and so might possibly lead to serious confusion, the two words "test message" should be incorporated in the body of all messages transmitted.

38. Wartime civil defense experience clearly has proved that use of the "24-hour clock" for all time statements keeps mistakes and confusion to a minimum. This is particularly true when the forces concerned have had experience in use of the "24-hour clock". For these reasons, the State Council of Civil Defense requests that, from this date forward, all county and local civil defense organizations use the "24-hour clock" in all operational activities, both real and simulated. For the convenience of all concerned, a simple "time conversion table" is attached to this circular.


Richard Gerstell
Director of Civil Defense

RG:mfr

Attachment 1

TIME "CONVERSION" TABLE
"Common" to "24-hour" Clock Readings

The table presented below is designed for use in converting "common clock" into "24-hour clock" readings.

All time statements and records relating to civil defense operations in Pennsylvania will be based on the time currently in effect in the majority of Pennsylvania communities (i.e. Eastern Standard, Eastern Daylight or Eastern War) expressed in terms of the "24-hour clock".

To figure time according to the "24-hour clock" take the "common clock" reading listed in Column No. 1 and run across to the reading listed on the corresponding line in Column No. 2. The latter will be the "24-hour clock" reading. For example, on line 2, below, the "common clock" reading in Column No. 1 is "12:15 A.M.", while the "24-hour clock" reading is "0015 hours". In other words, "12:15 A.M.", as commonly read from the clock, becomes "0015 hours", or simply "0015", when expressed in terms of the "24-hour clock".

Column No. 1
"Common Clock" Reading

Column No. 2
"24-hour Clock" Reading

12:01 A.M.....	0001 hours
12:15 A.M.....	0015 hours
12:30 A.M.....	0030 hours
12:45 A.M.....	0045 hours
1:00 A.M.....	0100 hours
1:30 A.M.....	0130 hours
2:00 A.M.....	0200 hours
3:00 A.M.....	0300 hours
4:00 A.M.....	0400 hours
5:00 A.M.....	0500 hours
6:00 A.M.....	0600 hours
7:00 A.M.....	0700 hours
8:00 A.M.....	0800 hours
9:00 A.M.....	0900 hours
10:00 A.M.....	1000 hours
11:00 A.M.....	1100 hours
11:30 A.M.....	1130 hours
12:00 P.M.....(noon).....	1200 hours
12:30 P.M.....	1230 hours
1:00 P.M.....	1300 hours
1:30 P.M.....	1330 hours
2:00 P.M.....	1400 hours
3:00 P.M.....	1500 hours
4:00 P.M.....	1600 hours
5:00 P.M.....	1700 hours
6:00 P.M.....	1800 hours
7:00 P.M.....	1900 hours
8:00 P.M.....	2000 hours
9:00 P.M.....	2100 hours
10:00 P.M.....	2200 hours
11:00 P.M.....	2300 hours
11:15 P.M.....	2315 hours
11:30 P.M.....	2330 hours
11:45 P.M.....	2345 hours
11:59 P.M.....	2359 hours
12:00 A.M.....(midnight).....	2400 hours

As readily can be seen from Column No. 2, above, the day, as expressed by the "24-hour clock", runs from one minute after midnight (0001 hours) through the 24 hours, each with 60 minutes, to midnight (2400 hours).

(f)

(f)

(f)